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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,331	04/14/2004	Olivier J. A. Schueller	H0498.70168US01	5408

7590 09/21/2007
Timothy J. Oyer, Ph.D.
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EXAMINER

SIMONE, CATHERINE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/824,331	Applicant(s) SCHUELLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Catherine Simone	Art Unit 1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 52, 54-56, 62 and 63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 62 and 63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 52 and 54-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawn Rejections

1. The 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection of claims 52-56 as anticipated by Gee et al. of record in the previous Office Action mailed 3/22/2007, Pages 2-3, Paragraph #3 has been withdrawn due to the Applicant's amendment filed 6/25/2007.
2. The 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 52-56 as anticipated by Moles of record in the previous Office Action mailed 3/22/2007, Pages 4-5, Paragraph #5 has been withdrawn due to the Applicant's amendment filed 6/25/2007.

Election/Restrictions

3. Newly submitted claims 62 and 63 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: claims 62 and 63 are each drawn to a different invention and each of the inventions are independent, since they are not connected in design, operation or effect, i.e., each invention is separately usable and the operation, design and effect of one is independent of the other.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 62 and 63 stand withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 52 and 54-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohman (US 5,443,890).

Regarding claim 52, Ohman teaches an article comprising a first component (bottom plate 1), which can be made of plastic (polymer) material (col. 4, line 18), having a surface bonded to a surface of a second component (top plate 7) in absence of auxiliary adhesive thereby defining a liquid-impermeable seal therebetween (col. 2, lines 18-23), wherein the liquid-impermeable seal comprises siloxane bonds since it comprises silicone rubber (col. 4, lines 7-12), and the first component (Fig. 9, #1) comprises a plurality of protrusions bonded to the surface of the second component (Fig. 9, #7) and a plurality of intervening indentations (Fig. 9, #10) not bonded to the surface of the second component.

Regarding claim 54, note first portions of the surface of the polymeric component (Fig. 9, #1) are bonded to the surface of the second component (Fig. 1, #7) while a second portion of the surface of the polymeric component, intervening the first portions of the surface of the polymeric component, is free of contact with the surface of the second component (Fig. 9, #10).

Regarding claim 55, note first portions of the surface of the second component (Fig. 9, #7) are bonded to the surface of the polymeric component (Fig. 9, #1) while a second portion of

Art Unit: 1772

the surface of the second component, intervening the first portions of the surface of the second component, is free of contact with the surface of the polymeric component (Fig. 9, #10).

Regarding claim 56, note the surface of the second component can be metal (col. 9, line 14).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 52 and 54-56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, which is shown above.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1772


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine Simone whose telephone number is (571) 272-1501.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Catherine A. Simone/
Catherine A. Simone
Examiner
Art Unit 1772
September 6, 2007


RENA DYE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
AU 1772